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After this sad business the church entered upon a most fruitful ministry when the Rev. Thomas Owers became Pastor in 1872, and continued his ministry for thirteen years, thus far out-distancing all former ministers. He came from Loscoe, after "six Sundays' trial, to judge of his fitness"; and he accepted a salary of £80 a year, "to be made into £100 as soon as possible." Two of the deacons wiped off a small debt of £5, "to let the minister start free from debt, and its dangers." We now have the record of a meeting called to consider whether the church "should renovate the organ, have a harmonium, or dispense with an organ altogether." They decided to renovate the organ. An important work was being carried on at Walton, and the Good Friday Meetings became an important institution. The sum of £85 was subscribed for "an organ to be built after the manner of the organ at Woodville"; so that they seem to have given up the idea of renovating the old organ. At a church meeting Brother Brown gave "notice of motion"—from this time onward the giving of "notice of motion" pops up like King Charles' head. Brother Brown's notice of motion was that boxes be placed prominently at the doors, for the use of strangers, so that apparently an offertory at the services was not being taken. But during the discussion a brother proposed an amendment that the matter "be left as it is." There seemed always to have been a useful brother in attendance with an amendment "that we stay as we are."

At the beginning of his third year Mr. Owers' salary was £120. The church this year finished with a balance in hand of £66, after paying the final £10 needed to complete the organ. It was now proposed that "we have collections for Foreign Missions," and this was carried. One sovereign was given to Mr. Freer, the caretaker, because of the "extra work caused through the late flood." This great flood is still remembered in Burton for its devastations. A committee was set up to see what could be done to "stop the draughts in the chapel." It was decided to try black silica for the gratings and under the floor in the gallery; and to have sandbags attached to the doors. The members now turned their attention to the "damp walls of the chapel," and it was decided to take the ivy from the walls. Later the "draughts" came up again, and this time they looked for them in the ventilators, but evidently they did not find them, for the draughts remained.

The year 1879 opened with the resignation of Samuel Bowman, but the church was not having any resignation. They struck the brother off the roll. When two brothers wished to join the church, and the church visitors saw them, "they gave suitable answers, but spoke with a spirit of levity unbecoming

the serious object in view" ; and they were kept back for a time. The old contention was brought up again—to elect the deacons for a term of three years, but it was decided to let the matter "remain as it is at present." It was also decided "that sisters in church meeting be restricted to voting." Evidently they had been saying too much! Weekly Offerings were now begun, with a trial of six months. The minister's salary was increased by £30, making £180. Mr. Cameron was removed from the church roll, "for leading young men astray in doctrine." It is from the secession of members who followed that the Tabernacle Church in the town was formed.

On Easter Monday, 1882, the foundation stones were laid of the New Linton Church, in which the church had taken a great interest. New schools were begun in 1884, and opened in the September of that year, at a cost of £1,415. The following year the pastor resigned and thus brought to a close a very fine ministry, and an eminently successful period of work.

The Rev. William Hanson settled in 1886, and during his ministry of six years, "Sunday evening collections began." The centenary was celebrated in 1892, and the special preachers were Dr. Booth and Dr. Clifford. The Rev. John Toogood followed Mr. Hanson, with a ministry of two-and-a-half years. The difficult period that followed was sustained by Mr. W. B. Smith, the church books recording "the great services of Mr. Smith through troubled times, and for taking the services when the church was in a low condition."

The years which followed have seen a steady increase in the number of members, and a richer life in the church. Five ministers have served, namely, Evan Williams, six years; David Laurie Donald, twelve years; Amos Alfred Blackledge, seven years; Joseph Tweedley, three years; William Henry Haden, six years. Their ministries are within living memory.

W. H. HADEN.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE. We heartily congratulate Dr. J. H. Rushbrooke upon his election as President of the Baptist World Alliance; an election that will give pleasure to Baptists in all five continents, for wherever Baptist Assemblies and Associations are found, Dr. Rushbrooke's name is held in warm regard. The election will be popular in this country, for no one represents the Baptist standpoint with greater power; and it will be particularly welcome to our brethren in war-stricken Europe, to whom Dr. Rushbrooke has been a great-hearted brother.

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